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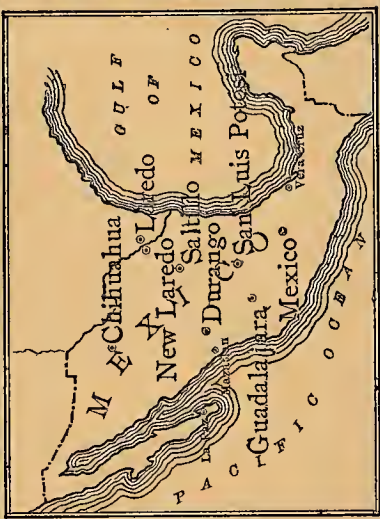
Nutshell Series

Information Ready for Use

MEXICO



Board of Missions, M. E. Church South

Foreign Department of Woman's Work

1913

Mexico.

WOMEN in Roman Catholic countries are ignorant, superstitious, degraded. The greatest offense of Romanism is the actual condition of womanhood in Catholic countries. This condition must be remedied, and no other remedy is so prompt and efficient as the gospel. With the preaching of the gospel go schools and the exaltation of the individual. An ignorant woman is always a helpless woman, and a helpless woman is sure to be a prey to man's cruelty. What woman in Mexico and other countries dominated by Catholicism suffers and has suffered can be measured only by the blessings which evangelized Christianity brings to womanhood. It is natural that the ministry of women to their sisters in these backward nations should begin first with the school. Our schools in Mexico have already achieved the notable result of forcing the Roman Church to give to its institutions the substance as well as the shadow of true education. They have also been powerful stimulants to the development of the public school system in Mexico. Better still, they are sending out a constant stream of fresh, sprightly, modest, virtuous, fearless young women to mingle in a society where woman's attitude has too long been one of timid submission to wrong, of hopeless accession to evil. That the womanhood of Mexico abounds in native vigor, intellectual sprightliness, and domestic virtue, history supplies a thousand proofs.

"The series of revolutions in Mexico culminating in the overthrow in the spring of 1913 of the Madero government, which was democratic in spirit and Protestant in sympathy, together with continued political unrest and the instability of the national government, has greatly hindered the progress of Christian work. The missionaries have often been exposed to danger; nevertheless, they have carried the burdens and anxieties of a difficult situation with most commendable coolness, courage, and faith."

THE BEGINNING OF THE WORK IN MEXICO.

Our denomination began work in Mexico in 1873. The women began work in 1881, confining themselves almost exclusively to school work. The stations have been located within the three Mexico Conferences—Laredo and Saltillo, in the Mexican Border Mission; San Luis Potosi, Mexico City, and Guadalajara, in the Central Mexico Mission; Durango and Chihuahua, in the Northwest Mexican Mission Conference.

The first school opened was at Laredo, in 1881, when an appropriation was made for the erection of a building on lots donated for that purpose, and Miss Rebecca Toland was appointed to that work. She went to Laredo in September of that year. In 1883 Miss Holding was appointed to Laredo, and remained principal of the seminary and superintendent of the Mexican work until June, 1913, when the school was leased for five yeare by the Home Department.

Saltillo.—A large normal department has been established in connection with this school. The present school building being inadequate, property was bought in 1912—a beautiful lot on the Alameda, the principal park of the city—and an appropriation made for the erection of a school building. The revolution has prevented the beginning of the work. Saltillo is an educational center, the etatus of education being higher in this State than in any other in the republic. The property is exempt from taxation by a special act of legislation. The echool receives, through the influence of Governor Carranzas, from the State a subsidy of $100. This is the only Protestant echool in Mexico that was officially invited to send a representative to the National Congress of Teachers iaet year. Twelve States had representatives in the normal school last session. The etudent body numbered 245.

San Luis.—Thie school has prospered despite the various disturbances of the year. The teaching force and equipment are adequate, but those in the school have worked uncomplainingly to the full extent of physical endurance. In the English Department the work is being done by earnest Christians—brave, true women who dared to etand by the school amid the political turmoil. Several of the Mexican teachers are the product of the school.

Mexico City.—No property is owned in Mexico City by the Council. The house occupied last year was satisfactory in many respects, but a most exorbitant rent has to be paid. The school is an influential one, being patronized by first-class Mexicans and Americans. It provides fine workers for Sunday school and Church purposes, eome of whom wish more extensive Bible-training that they may become evangelistic workers among their own people.

Durango.—The school in this fanatical city has prospered amid its unfavorable surroundings and its meager equipment. The home life of the echool has been beautiful, and has proved a strong tie to bind the pupils to the school.

Guadalajara.—In this city the school is conducted in a splendid buiiding originaiiy erected for a sanitarium. This is the finest piece of mission property owned by our Church in Mexico, and the schooi is destined to wieid a wide and most heipful influence in that part of the repuhlic.

Chihuahua.—There is no finer school in our mission, no stronger influence for good in the State of Chihuahua, than Paimore Institute; there is no stronger Church in Mexico than the one located within our compound, and composed principally of the former pupiis of our schooi. During the past session there were five hundred and twenty pupiis heing trained for future leadership in the State and for active work in the Church of God in this the second largest school in Southern Methodism.

The work of our women in Mexico cannot he commended too highiy. During the revolution of 1913 the women at Saitilio and Durango were forced to leave Mexico hy the order of the American Consuis at those places. They oheyed the order with utmost reluctance, and ieft oniy when it was no longer safe to remain.

The women at the other stations have remained, feeiing that they were in no danger. Indeed, they were wiliing to hrave dangers in response to the earnest entreaties of friends and committees of Mexicans who waited upon them hegging them to remain and continue the schools. Heroines, indeed, these! They love the Mexicans, and some said they would give their lives, if need he, rather than desert the Mexicans at this criticai hour. Brave, noble women represent our Church in Mexico, and deserve our sympathy and prayer as they work to bring the world to Christ.

Schools and Missionaries in Mexico.

SCHOOLS	Pupils	MISSIONARIES
Saltillo.		
Escuela Normal Metodesta	206	Miss Leila Roberts, Miss Frankie Hooper.
Oak Cliff Day School ...	39	Native teacher.
San Luis Potosi		
Colegio Ingles.....	177	Miss Frances B. Moling, Miss Ellen Alfter, Miss Charley Cunningham.
Mexico City.		
Mary Keener Iustitute.	278	Misses Esther Case, Anne Churchill, Lillie Fox, Ellie Tydings, Linnie Barcroft, Edith Park.
Guadalajara.		
Instituta Colon.....	87	Misses Mary Massey, Minnie Varner, Virginia Booth, Laura Wright.
Trueheart Day School.	36	
Chihuahua.		
Palmore Institute.....	520	Misses Lizzie Wilson and Lucy Harper.
Durango		
MacDonell Institute....	200	Mrs. O'Beirne and Miss Johnnie Pierson.

Misses Norville and Bessie Lee Wilson are employed temporarily by the Home Department.

Misses Buttrick and Capers are at home on account of sickness.

Misses Brittingham and McCaughan, recently appointed, have not been able to go to Mexico on account of disturbed conditions in that country.